



# NCARNG Weekly Safety Newsletter



April 24, 2015

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Visit us at [NCGKO](#)  
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## Spring is Here!!

Spring yard and garden work could mean trouble if you don't take the proper precautions. An estimated 135,000 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms last year for injuries associated with power lawn and garden tools, including lawnmowers.

Injuries often occur because of improper use, improper safety apparel, failure to heed safety instructions and owners' manuals, inadequate maintenance of tools, and mechanical problems. Often, the victims of these accidents are children who are unaware of any danger and are playing in the area where power equipment is being used. When using any garden tool follow these safety tips:

- Dress appropriately: Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts to provide some protection from thrown objects; wear close-fitting clothes and don't wear anything that could get caught in moving parts, e.g., loose jewelry; wear sturdy shoes with slip-resistant rubber soles; wear eye protection (even a small piece of grass in the eye can cause a painful eye abrasion); wear heavy gloves when changing, sharpening, or cleaning blades; wear hearing protection when using motor-driven equipment.
- Walk around the area in which you will be working before starting lawn and garden work, and remove any objects that could damage equipment or cause injury or property damage. Objects such as sticks and stones, metal, glass, and wire can break bones and cause other severe injuries when thrown from lawnmowers and other equipment.
- Keep children indoors away from power equipment. Children move quickly and are attracted to mowing and other power equipment activity.
- Be sure that safety devices on the equipment are in place and functioning properly before starting work.
- Unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
- Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended. This will prevent use by children.
- Handle gas carefully. Remember never to fill gasoline tanks while equipment is operating or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline.



- Never let young children operate power lawn and garden equipment. Teenagers should only be allowed to operate outdoor power equipment if they possess adequate strength and maturity to do so safely. They also should be supervised by a responsible adult.
- Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions.
- Be sure that extension cords are in good condition and are the proper size for the electrical current capacity of the tool.
- The best protection against electric shock is to use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs come in four varieties, including a type that can be used as part of an extension cord and a type that can be wired into your home's electrical system.

\*\*For more information visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/1993/Approach-Spring-Gardening-And-Yard-Work-With-Cauti/>





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## Hand And Power Tool Safety

The wide variety of hand and portable power tools available on the market today allow us to perform more tasks more efficiently. However, if used improperly, hand and power tools can cause injury. Use protective equipment and follow proper work practices in order to operate hand and power tools safely.

### Hand Tools: Wrenches, Pliers, Hammers and Screwdrivers

- Choose the correct hand tool that properly fits the fastener you wish to turn.
- Avoid using an extension to improve the leverage of a hand tool
- Do not expose hand tools to temperatures that could weaken tool hardness
- Do not over torque a fastener
- Do not strike the surface at an angle—the hammer face should contact the striking surface squarely, so the two are parallel.
- Inspect hand tools periodically for damage, such as cracking, severe wear or distortion
- Always use non-sparking hand tools when in the presence of flammable vapors or dusts



### Portable Power Tools

Portable power tools are designed for a wide variety of uses. Circular saws, jig saws, drills, hammer drills, sanders, grinders, routers and numerous other power tools save us time and effort on the job. The growing popularity of cordless battery-operated tools is putting power tools to use in more places than ever before, heightening the need for awareness of the dangers they present if not operated properly. The following safety rules are common to all power tools. In addition, each type of tool has its own unique hazards, which must be taken into account.

- Do not use electric power tools in the proximity of flammable vapors, dusts or construction materials. Also avoid using electric power tools in wet environments
  - Protect yourself from electric shock by insuring your tools are properly grounded; use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter for corded tools
  - Always check for hidden wires that may contact bladed tools
  - Only use attachments specifically recommended for your power tools, and ensure their proper installation
  - Inspect tools for damage including the cord, presence of guards, correct alignment, binding of components, or any condition that would affect the operation of the tool. If a tool is damaged, or a condition develops while a tool is in use, have the tool fixed before using it again
  - Avoid excessive force to make cutting tools cut faster; feed material only as fast as the tool is designed to accept to prevent excessive wear and decreased control
  - Keep others away from the work area, or provide shields to stop flying debris and other distractions
  - Always maintain tool control by keeping a tight grip on a tool
  - Maintain your balance and do not overreach
  - Secure your work in a vise or clamp for increased stability
  - Verify that all tools are unplugged or that the power source is removed when changing blades, performing maintenance or when tools are not in use
  - Be sure adjustment knobs are tightened and remove any adjustment keys before use
  - Avoid unintentional tool start-up by keeping your finger off of the power switch
- \*\*For more Tool Safety Information visit <http://www.graininger.com/content/qt-188-tool-safety>